

STATE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL (SIAC)

April Meeting Summary



Date | time April 22, 2020 | 10:00 a.m. | **Meeting Location** virtually via Zoom

Meeting called to order by Elizabeth Caywood, Deputy Commissioner of Department for Community Based Services & SIAC Vice Chair

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & UPDATES

Elizabeth Caywood, Deputy Commissioner, Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) & SIAC Vice Chair, welcomed members/alternates to the meeting. Ms. Caywood provided an update for DCBS and reported while local DCBS offices remain open, in-person service provision is very restricted. Social services staff are providing services via alternative/virtual platforms or phone, rather than in-person, unless there is a high risk or imminent safety concern for a child or vulnerable adult. These means of contacts are also occurring at greater frequency, and the contacts include private observation and discussion with the child. DCBS is still investigating all accepted reports of child and adult maltreatment, but those investigations initiated in person are more limited. DCBS has undertaken a huge effort moving nearly 1,400 family support/public assistance employees from local offices to telework. Social services staff were better outfitted to telework, whereas public assistance/family support staff were not until the COVID response. Public assistance recipients are being directed to call services and the self-service portal, and calls are redirected away from local offices to the extent possible. The Title IV-E prevention plan was approved on April 2, 2020. A press release has been developed. It is unfortunate COVID has overshadowed this great news. The state will be able to claim for these approved services back to October 1, 2019. Because practice often follows the money, we anticipate that the ability to leverage federal reimbursement for the provision of in-home services to the child and the child's family of origin will reorient the child welfare system so that families stay intact and foster care is an intervention of last resort.

Rachel Bingham, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), reported the courthouses are currently closed to the public until May 31st. In addition, the courts, Court Designated Worker Program, and Citizen Foster Care Review Boards are all complying with their statutory requirements.

Kevin C. Brown, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), reported that now that schools are not returning to in-person, they are asking districts to start thinking about what kind of outreach they can offer virtually, to use the school feeding sites as a way to reach students to use enrichment activities and accelerated learning platforms. Mr. Brown reported that some districts did not have an NTI platform, yet almost overnight they started that. Mr. Brown reported that not every district participated in the Summer Feeding Program prior to the pandemic, but now they are all participating in some type of feeding program. There are over 2000 feeding sites just through the public schools, in addition to all the other feeding sites and food banks. Mr. Brown reported that in the month of March, 4.6 million meals were served to 230,000 students. Many of those sites and many of those schools had never done Summer feeding and in a matter of 5 days they were up and running. Mr. Brown reported there are challenges with distance learning, as we know that not all families have access to the internet, and we need keep that in mind when we start the next school year.

Wendy Morris, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID), reported there are four new staff hired for the System of Care FIVE grant: Clay Barber, Project Director; Amanda Metcalf, Family Leadership Coordinator; Melissa Elliott, Training Coordinator; and Dyzz Cooper, Youth Leadership Coordinator. Ms. Morris announced that the seventh annual System of Care Academy will not be canceled due to COVID-19 but will be going virtual. Ms. Morris reported registration will be available soon and will be free for participants: <http://www.systemofcareacademy.eku.edu/>. Ms. Morris reported DBHDID has put together a number of videos re: for the governor to focus on children, youth, young adults that are available on the [kycovid.ky.gov](https://www.kycovid.ky.gov) website. Additionally, Miriam Silman has provided webinars for DCBS and DJJ staff re: workforce resilience and supporting and helping those we serve to stay psychologically healthy. Ms. Morris reported Kentucky was awarded a \$2 million Emergency COVID grant from SAMHSA. It will include work with the homeless population, expansion of crisis services, and telehealth. Ms.

Morris informed the Council that some families are struggling with being able to access their behavioral health services for children while school is out. Ms. Morris reported one issue is the same that education is seeing: parents are running out of minutes or they do not have the technology. Ms. Morris reported the department is aware of three deaths by suicide last week, and the youngest was 10.

Kristen Martin, Department for Public Health (DPH), reported they have hired Emily Keely as their new Social and Emotional Consultant. Ms. Keely will be the point person for all the Kentucky Strengthening Families and Connect the Dots trainings. Ms. Martin reported they have had to cancel most scheduled trainings, and they are exploring how to move trainings online. The HEART (Healing, Empowering and Recovering Together) Program is active in Floyd County; however, there are limited resources there. They are working to figure out how to get all the participants online and able to attend via Zoom. Ms. Martin reported this is a huge barrier for a very high-risk population. Ms. Martin reported they have been checking in via phone multiple times a week and assisting with supplies and resources. Ms. Martin asked if anyone had any resources for women in these rural areas, please share them with her.

William Heffron, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), reported that DJJ was able to send home a lot of youth that were close to being discharged, and the number of youth coming into the system has declined, so they have fewer youth in residential care. Dr. Heffron reported they have increased their use of teleconferencing with parents. Dr. Heffron reported their training academy for new staff will be mostly virtual. Dr. Heffron reported that in the community, DJJ are doing as much as possible remotely or via phone.

Stephanie Bates, Department for Medicaid Services (DMS), reported that most of Medicaid staff are telecommuting. Ms. Bates stated they have seen a very big spike in enrollment and have surpassed the point of 1.4 million. Ms. Bates reported they have encouraged enrollment and pushed telehealth.

Ivanora Alexander, Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs (OCSHCN), reported most staff are telecommuting, and they are able to offer occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, and the Early Intervention Program through telehealth. Ms. Alexander reported that on Thursday, they are going to pilot a medical clinic for Neurology via telehealth. If that goes well, they will follow that model for autism clinics. Our Virtual Care Team Conferences have always been virtual so they will continue. On April 1, 2020, Ms. Alexander was appointed Executive Director of OCSHCN.

Callie Cartmell, Youth Representative, reported that she has noticed a lot more youth-to-youth conversations since the pandemic. Ms. Cartmell also reported concern for those struggling with depression, as it is difficult being isolated at home.

Denitta Mercier, Parent Member, reported the Barren River parent retreat was postponed until May, and it may be postponed further. Ms. Mercier reported the Barren River RIAC has applied for the SOC FIVE grant to provide respite services, increase High Fidelity services, and mobile assessments. Ms. Mercier reported that KPFC is hosting virtual Parent Cafes every Wednesday from 1-2 p.m.; anyone can go to the KPFC website to register.

Mary Ann Jennings, Family Resource & Youth Services Centers (FRYSC), reported staff are working very hard to keep connections between families and students during this time. Ms. Jennings responded to other Council member's concerns about difficulty in connecting with families, and she said the FRYSC could assist in outreach to those families. Ms. Jennings reported the Regional Program Managers would be able to facilitate connection to the Center Coordinators. Ms. Jennings reported staff are using phones to connect with families as well as doing porch drop-offs of educational materials, as well as supplies for basic needs and even some supplies for fun activities, like kites and puzzles, to do while they are at home. Ms. Jennings reported almost all of the Centers are working on food assistance, assisting with daily deliveries and weekend backpacks as well as COVID prevention materials. Ms. Jennings reported some of the Center Coordinators are doing porch visits with local mental health providers to check on students. Ms. Jennings encouraged everyone to look at the FRYSC social media page to see how centers are connecting.

Cora McNabb, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), reported that OVR staff are 100% telecommuting and delivering services remotely. Ms. McNabb reported 66 OVR staff transferred to do Unemployment Insurance claims, and while it was difficult to move those staff, they were willing to do that to help out the system.

Rhonda Logsdon, KY-SPIN, Family Organization Representative, reported they have updated their webpage in order to have all information and resources in one place so that it is easily accessible. Ms. Logsdon shared that webinars are offered every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. EST. Ms. Logsdon shared that Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children (KPFC) are also hosting a series of webinars. KPFC is hosting a Virtual Youth Fest this Thursday, April 23rd. The Prichard Committee is also hosting virtual Parent Cafés their Facebook page. Ms. Logsdon reported NAMI has also

changed to virtual support groups, and KY Hands & Voices are also offering Parent Cafés for families that are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf blind.

BUSINESS ITEMS

❖ Review of February Meeting Summary

Rachel Bingham made motion to approve. **Ivy Alexander** – second to the motion. Motion carried.

• Bluegrass South RIAC Youth Member Appointment

SIAC Vice Chair Elizabeth Caywood requested SIAC Members review the Bluegrass South RIAC Youth Member application that had been emailed to members/designees earlier today. There were no objections. Vice Chair Caywood appointed Elizabeth Burdine as the Bluegrass South RIAC Youth Representative.

• Legislative Updates

- **Elizabeth Caywood**, DCBS & SIAC Vice Chair, reported Senate Bill 40, which pertained to private foster care agencies and facilities employees background checks, was enacted. Ms. Caywood reported she does not anticipate House Bill 1 being enacted during this session; there will be keen interest in public assistance programs during the interim.
- **Kevin C. Brown**, KDE, voiced concern over the budget situation, and suggested all need to start monitoring.
- **Rachel Bingham**, AOC, reported there is a freeze on positions, and they are watching to see how the economy is going to rebound.

• Resource to Support Education & Child and Youth-Serving Professionals During COVID-19

Wendy Morris, DBHDID, presented a request from the Social & Emotional Health & Well-being (SEH&WB) Standing Committee concerning requests from others on how to better support their workforce and those they serve while maintaining psychological wellbeing. SEH&WB would like to pose the following questions: What information or resources would be helpful to you in being able to support the psychological wellbeing of your staff and the people you serve? Would a short video be helpful for you to share with staff? SIAC Council responded affirmatively. Lea Taylor asked if for any specific requests to be emailed to Damien Sweeney or Tena Robbins.

REGIONAL INTERAGENCY COUNCIL (RIAC) UPDATES & CHALLENGES

Vanessa Brewer, RIAC Administrator at DBHDID, reported that the majority of the RIACs are continuing to meet monthly. They have made the transition to virtual meetings, and Ms. Brewer reported there has been increased participation in the meetings by the council members. Many RIACs, due to COVID-19, have shifted their area of focus to support families and transition-age youth in their communities regarding immediate needs. For example, Barren River and Salt River RIACs quickly put together resource one-pagers for their community that includes information on how to access basic needs; information on how to access unemployment and other assistance programs as well as mental health services; and the hotline information for child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and suicide prevention. Ms. Brewer shared that as other RIACs are beginning to put these resources together, we have asked them to also consider families that do not have internet access. Big Sandy RIAC is developing public service announcements to promote suicide prevention; these will be shared on social media, radio stations, and news stations. Big Sandy RIAC is working with students from local schools, youth residing in group homes, and youth in Breathitt County Juvenile Detention. Ms. Brewer also connected them with Beck Whipple, DBHDID State Suicide Prevention Coordinator for resources and materials. Ms. Brewer stated the RIACs are mobilizing partnerships in their communities to meet these emergent needs. Ms. Brewer reported the Division for Behavioral Health released a new RIAC funding opportunity to support efforts related to the COVID-19 crisis. Funds for this opportunity will be used to address emergent needs of the families and communities within the RIAC and or LIAC geographical area. The application is due May 1st with a turnaround time of by June 1st or before. RIACs or LIACs can request up to \$5000 each. The Division for Behavioral Health has provided 2 TA calls for those interested in applying to answer questions and provide assistance in regarding applying for proposal ideas and development. During these calls, the Division has been informed of a system-level barrier impacting families: the limitation on phone minutes and data caps for families that have a Federal Benefit Phone. This impacts their ability to

respond to school check-ins, communicating with their teachers, and access to telehealth services. The RIACs requested SIAC assistance in breaking down this system-level barrier.

SIAC held a discussion via audio and the chat box. Both members/designees and community stakeholders joined in the conversation to report the breadth of this issue as well as offer possible solutions. Tena Robbins, DBHDID, asked what role the MCOs could play in providing technology to families. Stephanie Bates, DMS, will reach out to the MCOs to gather information about what they offer. Carol Cecil, KPFC, reported they are providing phones to transition-age youth across the state for telehealth purposes; Ms. Cecil will provide a flyer. Beth Jordan, DBHDID, reported SAMHSA has prohibited the use of its funds to buy technology. Ms. Caywood reported she will send information from the Federal Government regarding SNAP recipients qualifying for a cell phone. Ms. Taylor will compile information supplied and send out to the SIAC distribution list [see Meeting Handouts].

TAYLRD 2.0

Jesse Dillow, TAYLRD Youth Coordinator, and **Stephanie Sikes-Jones**, TAYLRD State Level Youth Leadership Coordinator, presented on Transition-age Youth Launching Realized Dreams (TAYLRD), which is Kentucky's version of SAMHSA's Healthy Transitions Initiative [see Meeting Handouts for presentation slides]. TAYLRD staff last presented to SIAC in November of 2017, and there were ten Drop-In Center locations at that time. The first round of the TAYLRD grant is now referred to as TAYLRD 1.0. The main focus was then Pathways and Centerstone/Seven Counties. TAYLRD 1.0 ended in September of 2019, and at that time, there were fifteen drop-in sites. In 2018, SAMHSA released another funding opportunity. More youth voice were included in the grant-writing process, and Kentucky was awarded the grant (TAYLRD 2.0) in March of 2019. For the first time, there is a Youth Leadership Coordinator the Department-level. Year 1 outcomes of TAYLRD 2.0 are as follows: two policy changes at state and local level that expanded access and services for young people; three partnerships that help expand or enhance services to transition-age youth; and they served 65 young people. Over the next four years, TAYLRD plans to: enhance cross-system collaboration to increase access for transition-age youth; strengthen the youth leadership network across system; improve partnerships between child- and adult-serving systems; reduce stigma in system as well as the public; and increase involvement of families, allies, supporters and community partners.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Elizabeth Caywood, Deputy Commissioner of Department for Community Based Services & SIAC Vice Chair, asked for input on future agenda items.

- SMART friends and family – Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children – TBD
- Violence Prevention Report – Christopher II X, Anti-Violence Advocate – TBD
- CASA Program – Margaret McGladrey, Kentucky CASA Network – TBD, tentatively May 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Caywood, Deputy Commissioner of Department for Community Based Services & SIAC Vice Chair, asked for any public comment. Ms. Caywood reminded everyone that COVID-19-related resources are available on the Cabinet website, Department for Public Health, the Inspector General's websites. Ms. Caywood reported the Community Action Agencies across the state have received an additional federal allocation for the Low Income Assistance Program. DCBS is also working with the Community Action to establish a summer cooling program that can help with summer utility bills. Though disconnects have been suspended, these funds may help retain those utilities once the disconnect suspensions are lifted. DCBS is also releasing funds to child care providers across the state; 25 to 40 percent is projected to be temporarily shut down during COVID. Ms. Caywood reminded SIAC that they are mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 27, 2020 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location to be determined. Will likely be a virtual meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Rachel Bingham made motion to adjourn. **Kevin Brown** – second to the motion.

Elizabeth Caywood, Deputy Commissioner of Department for Community Based Services & SIAC Vice Chair, adjourned the meeting.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

TASK:	RESPONSIBLE PARTY:
Kristen Martin, DPH, requested assistance in locating resources for women with children in rural areas.	Members/Designees and Audience: If you are aware of any resources, please contact Kristen.Martin@ky.gov

IN ATTENDANCE

Members/Designees:

Elizabeth Caywood, DCBS
Rachel Bingham, AOC
Denitta Mercier, Parent Representative
Callie Cartmell, Youth Representative
Wendy Morris, DBHDID
Stephanie Bates, DMS
Mary Ann Jennings, FRYSC

Rhonda Logsdon, KY-SPIN
Ivanora Alexander, OCSHCN
Bill Heffron, DJJ
Kristen Martin, DPH
Kevin Brown, KDE
Cora McNabb, OVR

Staff: Lea Taylor, SIAC Administrator, DBHDID; Lori Ramage, Administrative Specialist, DBHDID; Vanessa Brewer, RIAC Administrator, DBHDID

Partial Guest List:

Anne Embry, LifeSkills
Sonny Mercier, Parent Alternate
Amber Collins, AOC
DeeDee Ward, DBHDID
Janice Johnston, DBHDID
Damien Sweeney, KDE
Christie Penn, DBHDID
Whitney Hayse, P&A
Brittany Roberts, KPFC
Miriam Silman, DBHDID
Kathy Mason, Bluegrass RIAC
Kathryn Tillett, KDE
Carol Cecil, KPFC
Beth Jordan, DBHDID
Clay Barber, DBHDID
Beck Whipple, DBHDID
Michele Blevins, DBHDID
Nina Begley, New Vista
Sasha Buckner
Joy Varney, DBHDID
Kelly Pullen
Lori Bradbury-Robinson, DJJ
Leslie Hoffman, DMS
Margaret McGladrey, CASA
Stephanie Sikes-Jones, DBHDID

Diane Gruen-Kidd, DBHDID
B. Kirk
Bart Baldwin
Ebony Blackford, AOC
Troy Bell, AOC
Angela Morris, AOC
Shirley Gardstein, Cumberland River RIAC
LeAnn Magre, Wellcare
Amanda Niedwick
Jarrod Roberts, WellCare
Jennifer Wilson
Michelle Niehaus, DBHDID
Laura Edwards, DBHDID
Vestena Robbins, DBHDID
Heidi Cooley-Cook, KATC
Kate Tilton, TAYLRD
Michelle Kilgore, DBHDID
Phyllis Millspaugh, DBHDID
Shelly Steiner, DBHDID
Kellie Smith, KY-SPIN
Kim Hinkson-Lee, KDE
Laura Chowning, WellCare
Liz McKune
Liz Moreland, New Vista
Jesse Dillow, TAYLRD

Partial Guest List:

Susan Robinson, NorthKey
Tony Dillow, Pathways
Brittany Brown, WellCare
Shellie Mills, CRCC

Tabitha Ross, WellCare
Veronica Sullivan, KDE
David Crowley

MEETING HANDOUTS

Any handouts referenced in the meeting summary above will be available on the SIAC website at <http://dbhdid.ky.gov/dbh/siac-summaries.aspx>. Under **Handouts**, use the drop down to select this meeting date.